

CA4 ONHBL X58
86 M11

URBAN/MUNICIPAL

MCQUESTEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

McQuesten Community
development project. -
executive summary.

CA4 ONHBL X58

86 M11

McQuesten Community

Development Project

1986

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FEB 1 7 1987

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

FUNDED BY : Employment and Immigration Canada
Challenge '86 - Summer Employment/
Experience Development (S.E.E.D.)

SPONSORED BY : The McQuesten Community Association

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project was initiated by the McQuesten Community Association under a grant received from the Federal Government's Summer Employment Experience Development Project of 1986.

This study was conducted by Anne Kuszczak of Brock University and Judy Gerencser of McMaster University. It took place between 12 May 1986 and 15 August 1986.

The four main objectives of this study are as follows:

- 1) To identify, analyse and address the concerns of the residents in the McQuesten area.
- 2) To accept input from the residents and to formulate recommendations from their input.
- 3) To evaluate the services provided and make determinations of their fulfilment of community needs.
- 4) To increase awareness of community programs and stimulate participation in organizing same.

The scope of the study was limited to the McQuesten East (population 1228) and McQuesten West (population 6,359) neighbourhood planning boundaries. These boundaries include the following:

Parkdale Avenue North, Queenston Road, the Red Hill Valley and the Canadian National Railway tracks.

The entire McQuesten population, where possible, was sampled (excluding businesses). 1,982 questionnaires were sent out and 155 were returned. Due to the response rate, 100 additional residences were randomly selected and sampled by phone.

It was the final purpose of this study to make concrete recommendations to the McQuesten Community Association (hereby referred to as the Association) based on the data accumulated from questionnaires and other sources.

For the most part, only mail respondents will be referred to in this executive summary. To simplify matters, neither mail nor telephone data will be broken up into areas.

This study is not intended to discredit the work of various local and outlying agencies. It is simply meant for agencies to use as a guide for future community development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Social Services

In regard to familiarity of social services, the most frequently cited were the McQuesten Community Association (34.2 %), McQuesten Legal and Community Services (55.5 %) and The Queenston Parent-Child Drop-In Centre (48.5 %).

Since the remaining eight social services (See appendix B - questionnaire - question 1) have a mean familiarity rate of 20.7 %, it is suggested that more awareness is needed. Various local social service agencies need to make themselves better known to McQuesten residents, through publicity.

Concerning social service utilization, the most widely used services in the McQuesten area are the McQuesten Legal and Community Services and the McQuesten Community Services Journal.

The low utilization rates for the remaining services (See appendix B - questionnaire - question 2) suggest either a lack of awareness or a lack of need for the services currently being offered in the McQuesten area.

In response to the question concerning utilization of services outside the McQuesten area, 72.9 % of all respondents stated that they did not use these outside services. This could indicate, as does the utilization data for local services, a lack of awareness concerning outside social services or it simply may suggest a lack of need for these services.

Many respondents indicated a need for, among other things, alcohol abuse counselling (29.0 %), child lunch programs (23.9 %), domestic violence counselling (23.2 %), drug counselling (24.5 %), job counselling (25.2 %), and Neighbourhood Watch Programs (32.9 %). It is recommended that the Association take these suggestions into consideration when developing future programs.

When asked whether they felt adequately served by local community services 41.9 % of all respondents said yes, 20.6 % said no and 33.5 % said that they were not sure. Surprisingly, 25 % of all telephone respondents said yes, 35 % said no and 40 % said that they were not sure. This discrepancy could be due to the difference in the methods of sampling used. Since in both

cases more than half of the respondents were unsure about or unhappy with current community services, it is recommended that the Association continue to offer or improve services in the McQuesten area.

Recreation

The three most recognized recreational facilities in the McQuesten community were the Sir Winston Churchill Centre (62.6 %), Parkdale Arena (60.6 %) and Parkdale Park (54.8 %). The remaining recreational services were reasonably well known to McQuesten respondents.

Surprisingly, these recreational services were not well utilized by questionnaire respondents. The most widely used was the Sir Winston Churchill Centre; only 17.4 % of all respondents claimed to have used this service more than ten times.

Many respondents indicated a need for the following recreational services: adult dances (26.5 %), concerts (26.5 %), fitness programs (28.4 %), wading pools (24.5 %) and more recreational services in general (25.2 %).

When asked whether they would be willing to volunteer their time to community programs an impressive 41.3 % said yes.

It is recommended that the Association, and those involved in recreational activities, consider the findings when planning future programs.

Since a large percentage of respondents said they were interested in volunteering their time and since most indicated an interest in volunteering for recreational programs, new and improved recreational programs seem relatively feasible.

Daycare

When asked if there was a need for sufficient affordable daycare in the McQuesten community 6.5 % said no, 32.3 % said yes, and 46.5 % said that they were not sure. When asked whether there was a need for 24-hour daycare, 13.5 % said no, 39.4 % said yes, and 38.1 % said that they were not sure.

Eliminating those unfamiliar with, or undecided about, the issue of daycare, it can be stated

that the majority of respondents feel there is a need for improved daycare facilities in the McQuesten neighbourhood. In fact, one respondent stated that the *"most pressing need [in the McQuesten community] is affordable daycare"*.

The large number of low income and single parent families in the McQuesten area make the need for affordable daycare services necessary. It is recommended that this issue be considered for further examination by the proper authorities.

Youth

When asked to indicate the major problems associated with young people in the McQuesten community 39.4 % of respondents stated that young people have nothing to do, 43.2 % stated loitering was a major concern, 52.3 % stated young people simply have a bad attitude and 53.5 % stated unemployment among youths is a growing problem.

One respondent remarked that *"youth does not seem to do anything but hang around store fronts [with no] involvement in other activities"*. This respondent further stated that *"parents of some kids don't give a ... about their kids"*.

One respondent recommended that the Association should *"help interest the teenagers so they stay off the streets and out of trouble"*. One respondent stressed a need for *"more activities for children and teens"*. It was also recommended that the Association, or related authorities, *"create jobs for younger people to help them get the experience they need"*.

It is further recommended, that the Association, among other things, initiate a Neighbourhood Hire a Teen Program, an Adopt a Grandparent Program and a youth counselling program.

Crime

In regard to crime in the McQuesten area, 6.5 % of all respondents stated that they were not concerned with this issue. The majority of the respondents were either concerned or very concerned about crime (38.7 % and 43.2 % respectively). In regard to juvenile delinquency, 7.1 % were not concerned, 34.2 % were concerned and 47.7 % were very concerned. The majority of respondents (42.8 %) felt police protection was fair and a large percentage (36.8 %) felt it was good. However, a great percentage of respondents were either concerned or very concerned (31.6 % and 32.2 % respectively) about police protection.

Since crime, in general, is such a major concern in the McQuesten area, and since 32.9 % of

all respondents indicated a need for a Neighbourhood Watch Program, it is recommended that the Association consider running this type of program in the near future. In regard to juvenile delinquency, it is recommended that the Association review the comments listed in the section on youth. Concerning police, it is suggested that the Association, the police and other related agencies work together for the benefit of the community.

Seniors

13.6 % of the McQuesten population is over the age of 60. A large proportion of respondents (41.3 %) indicated they were concerned about the vulnerability of seniors to crime. 32 % of respondents felt that there were inadequate recreational services available for seniors. 25.2 % of respondents indicated a need for more social services for the elderly. 31.6 % of respondents stated there is not an adequate number of nearby medical facilities specializing in geriatrics.

Courses and seminars should be initiated by the Association in order to reduce senior citizens' vulnerability to crime. A Neighbourhood Watch Program, self defense courses and courses for seniors in general, may help to reduce the risk of victimization. Specialized programs for seniors in the recreational and social veins, should be initiated by the Association or related agencies, in the near future. More awareness as to the general needs of seniors should be brought to the attention of the public, as well as to the appropriate agencies.

Environment

When the question of pollution was mentioned, a total of 36.1 % of respondents indicated they were very concerned about pollution in the McQuesten community, more specifically, the Red Hill Valley Creek needs to be examined in order to determine the health risks, if any, to nearby residents. One resident suggested that *"cleaning up the area"* may help solve the problem of pollution in the Red Hill Valley and *"make it a better place"* in general. This environmental concern is of special interest to the McQuesten residents as the Red Hill Valley makes up one of the community's boundaries. Another respondent suggested that we *"not forget the natural beauty of Red Hill Creek"*. Further, the respondent suggested that if it was made *"into a beautiful park, the Red Hill Creek would be the pride of Hamilton"*.

34.8 % of respondents stated the conditions of streets were poor. 40 % of respondents indicated that they were concerned about the condition of streets. Also, 38.1 % of respondents stated they were concerned about traffic flow. Many respondents felt that Roxborough Avenue was in poor condition. One respondent in particular commented that *"Roxborough Avenue is the biggest mess between Parkdale [Avenue North] and Reid Avenue. Will it ever be repaired?"*

Attention should be brought to the Aldermen, representing the area, as to the state of dis-repair of Roxborough Avenue.

Housing Conditions

Concerning housing conditions, 50.3 % of respondents rated them fair and 36.8 % of respondents were concerned about the housing situation. 33.5 % of respondents claim to be tenants, and thus are not totally responsible for the condition of their living accommodations. Therefore, it is recommended that relevant authorities review the issue of housing to ensure that both tenant and landlord are contributing to the maintenance of basic living conditions.

Some areas of McQuesten have pockets of low income and subsidized housing. These are not the most ideal of conditions as the grouping of low income and subsidized housing creates problems, as evident in McQuesten West. Therefore, it is suggested that more integration among the income levels be exercised.

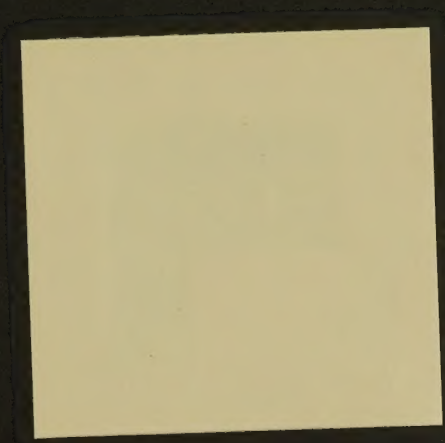


Summary and Conclusion

In conclusion, there is a general lack of awareness regarding the facilities available in the McQuesten area. Subsequently, there is a lack of utilization of many local services.

Respondents expressed a concern over the situation of daycare in the McQuesten area. Crime against the elderly, and crime in general, was viewed by the respondents as a problem in the community. Many respondents also expressed a concern over unemployment among youths.

The data from this study has demonstrated that there is a need for improved community services in the McQuesten area. More importantly, there is a need for greater awareness of existing services. It is hoped that the previously expressed recommendations will be used to benefit the McQuesten community.



WWW
BOS
MAY 1999

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 2022 21336434 8

10/1/11

2543

10/1/11